

FOOTBALL

Flashes of brilliance

Fast start wakes up season for NU

LINCOLN — Notre Dame wanted to wake up the echoes. The Huskers woke up their season.

By the end of Nebraska's 27-10 victory over the Irish, it was time to wake up the fans. But that's another story.



Tom Shatel

Forget how the evening ended. Nebraskans will always remember how this memorable evening began.

With passion. With fury. With a 17-0 lead. With a tidal wave of noise from the sea of red. With a return to dominance in the trenches.

The Huskers punched the Fighting Irish in the mouth so quickly, and decisively, that it seemed this highly anticipated, over-hyped bout was over before it began.

Good offense. Good defense. Good special teams. Most of all, good scheduling.

He may not have gotten a game ball, but a hearty handshake is due one Bill Byrne. The Nebraska athletic director proved as good in the trenches as the offensive and defensive linemen dominating out on the field.

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Nebraska's Jeremy Slichta sacks Notre Dame quarterback Carlyle Holiday in the second quarter.

JEFF WEITSMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Defense dominates Husker victory

Outcome decided early

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln — The question of whether Nebraska is a national championship contender or merely a pretender remains on the table three games into the season.

There were enough flashes of brilliance in Saturday night's 27-10 win over 17th-ranked Notre Dame to polish a national image tainted by some lackluster play in the first two wins. But plenty of flaws remain to be fixed before the fourth- and fifth-ranked Huskers can even start thinking they are capable of winning it all.

Saturday's most glaring breakdown was the inability to sustain the effort that propelled the Huskers to a 27-3 lead after 30 minutes. That performance whipped the record turnout of 78,118 — the 242nd consecutive sellout crowd at Memorial Stadium — into a high-volume frenzy.

"That's the loudest I've ever heard it here," Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch said.

Those same fans had little to cheer about from an offensive standpoint in the second half, partly because the Fighting Irish put forth a more-inspired effort in the final 30 minutes and partly because Nebraska Coach Frank Solich pulled in the reins.

Nebraska threw just one pass in the second half, relying on running plays to account for all of its 70 yards of offense in the second half. Overall, Nebraska finished with 270 yards, averaging 4.4 yards per play against a Notre Dame defense that had allowed only 100 yards in its previous two games.

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Dahrran Diedrick outruns Notre Dame's Grant Irons during the first quarter Saturday. Diedrick was the top Nebraska rusher.

Diedrick helps carry Huskers to victory

■ I-back rushes 32 times for 133 yards and two touchdowns in Nebraska's 27-10 win.

By MITCH SHERMAN
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — When Nebraska Coach Frank Solich labeled Dahrran Diedrick prior to this season as an I-back capable of carrying the football 25 to 30 times per game, apparently Solich wasn't kidding.

The junior from Scarborough, Ontario, turned in another solid, if unspectacular, effort Saturday night in the Huskers' 27-10 win over Notre Dame. Diedrick rushed 32 times for 133 yards in the second start of his career. He scored a pair of touchdowns, including the capper to a game-opening, 64-yard touchdown

march.

And most importantly, Diedrick began to prove that Nebraska has found the I-back for which it was searching.

"I thought I played pretty well," said Diedrick, who gained 87 yards on 18 carries in the first two quarters as NU built a 27-3 lead, "but it had a lot to do with my teammates. Most of my carries tonight were right up the middle. Without those guys

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Offensive leaders

Rushing yards	
Dahrran Diedrick	133
Eric Crouch	31
Judd Davies	21
Receiving yards	
Tracey Wistrom	71
John Gibson	22
Return yards	
Keyuo Craver	29
DeJuan Groce	24

INSIDE



Texas toast

Victor Ike and the Texas offense burned the North Carolina defense on the way to the Longhorns' 44-14 win.

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Mavs can boast

Seth Tjerman scored twice as UNQ earned state bragging rights with a 20-10 victory over the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

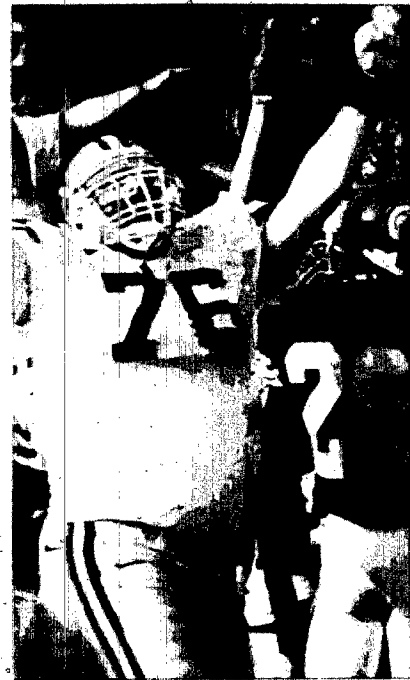
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Cyclones coast

Iowa State quarterback Seneca Wallace led the Cyclones to a 43-0 victory over Division I-AA Northern Iowa.

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Wildcat riposte

Cherman Oshin Hnatchian and Kansas State answered critics with a win over a tough conference opponent in Southern California.

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